

**Denton Independent School District  
Board of Trustees  
Certificates of Recognition  
November 11, 2008**

Denton ISD's current seniors and 2008 graduates have scored well on the college readiness and preparatory tests.

**PSAT scholars**

Denton ISD has six seniors, who have been honored for their high scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), an assessment taken last year by high school juniors nationwide.

They were among the 1.2 million students from 20,000 high schools who entered the 2009 Merit Program. They were juniors when they took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

**National merit semifinalists**

Two seniors have been named National Merit Semifinalists. They are among an elite group of only 1,600 semifinalists throughout the United States who were named in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program.

**Daniel Pickett** - is the son of Douglas Pickett and Huguette Tran. He is in the All-Region Orchestra, the school's varsity orchestra and the diving team. He also is a member of the Guyer Physics Club and the Texas Music Teachers Association Piano Ensemble. He plans to major in bio-chemistry or pre-medicine.

**Sophia Tanner** - is the daughter of Harold and Sharon Tanner. She is involved in orchestra, Key Club, AP Chemistry Club, National Honor Society and Junior Classical League. She has not declared a major of study.

These national semifinalists are now eligible to compete for 8,000 Merit Scholarship Awards, which totals more than \$30 million in scholarships. Less than one percent of the students taking the PSAT qualified as a National Merit Semifinalist.

**Commended scholars**

Denton ISD had three commended scholars from Guyer High and one from Ryan High. To be named a commended scholar, the students had to place in the top five percent nationwide on the PSAT test. There were less than 34,000 commended students nationwide.

The commended scholars from Guyer High are:

**Gina Bishop** - is the daughter of Rodney and Beth Bishop. She is involved in theater and plans to attend MIT.

**David Heyen** - is the son David and Anna Heyen. He is active in AFJROTC, Key Club and church activities. He plans to attend MIT.

**Teodoro Soares** - is the son of Angela and Claudio Nascimento. He is involved in Student Council and is vice president of the senior class. He plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania.

The commended scholar from Ryan High is:

**Mary Strange** - was named Commended Scholar. She is the daughter of Dan and Carol Strange. Her school activities include soccer, literary criticism, Key Club, National Honor Society, HSTE Internship at People's Clinic, cross country and track, and Spanish Club. She plans to attend Rice University or University of Texas

### **National Hispanic Scholar**

From Guyer High, **Teodoro Soares** also was named a National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar Finalist. He was among the top five percent of Hispanic students to take the PSAT.

## **Denton ISD's AP Scholar recipients**

The College Board recently announced that 98 Denton ISD students were recognized for their exceptional achievement on Advanced Placement courses and exams.

The College Board recognizes high school students, who have distinguished themselves academically, by announcing AP Scholar award recipients. The program offers several awards to recognize high school students who have demonstrated college-level achievement through AP courses and exams.

The AP Scholar with Distinction award is granted to students who receive the highest grades on at least five exams.

The AP Scholar with Honor award is granted to students who receive the highest grades on four or more of these exams.

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### **Denton High**

**Das Somak**, Denton High junior, earned AP Scholar with Distinction recognition. Denton High graduates Theodore Yan and Jackson Zhou, also received AP Scholar with Distinction recognition.

**Gwendwr Meredith**, Denton High senior, received AP Scholar with Honor recognition. Denton High graduates who earned AP Scholar with Honor recognition were: Leslie Ford, Taerim Kim, Sabrina Mackenzie, Christina Porras and Seth Ramey.

Denton High seniors who earned AP Scholar recognition were **Simone Carter** and **Kevin Shiflet**. The following Denton High graduates earned AP Scholar recognition: Sarah Adams, Andrew Burtch, Vincent Chang, Aimee Cloutier, Faith Collaso, Susan Conover, Benjamin Hokamp, Varayudh Keokhumcheng, Heejun Kim, Alyssa Looney, Alyzabeth Looney, Farnaz Memarzadeh, Nathan Miller, James Reedy, Stephanie Sidoti, Shomya Tripathy, Joseph Tucker and Adam Wilde.

## **Guyer High**

Guyer High seniors earning AP Scholar with Distinction were: **Gina Bishop, Daniel Pickett** and **Sophia Tanner**.

**Evelyn Gibson**, Guyer High senior, received the AP Scholar with Honor award.

Guyer High seniors, who received AP Scholar, recognition were: **Griffin Brown, Jesse Coffey, Caroline Dubberly, Jorge Escobar, Maggie Maido, Andrew Otto, Jessie San Miguel, Teodoro Soares, Miranda Wargo, Kelly Watson, Kelby Wenger** and **Anthony Zuefeldt**.

Guyer High graduates receiving AP Scholar recognition were: Zainab Al-Sayegh, Alexandra Alvarez, Jose Espino, Sean Gorman, Samantha Hoiby, Mary Lockwood, Lauren Martin, Samuel Panning, Andrea Pugh, Trevor Rodgers, Vilhelmiina Ruotsalainen, Caleb Weaver, Blake Windham and Callie Windle.

## **Ryan High**

Ryan High seniors who received AP Scholar with Honor recognition were **Mariana Alfaro-Mendoza** and **Austin Greenhaw**.

Ryan High graduates earning AP Scholar with Honor recognition were Leah Acton, Heather McGuire and Sarah Simington.

Ryan High seniors earning AP Scholar recognition were: **Lindsay Cole, Aaron Dohanich, Nicholas Fazzino, Laura Gilbert, Harrison Lindley, Alyssa McCormack** and **Mary Strange**. **Sandra Ogenche**, Ryan High junior, also earned AP Scholar recognition.

Ryan High graduates receiving AP Scholar recognition were: Melissa Anderson, Hannah Armstrong, Jennifer Bates, Christian Bell, Michael Braswell, Hannah Briggs, Jonathan Bryant, Margaret Casady, Matthew Cooper, Lauren Deison, Danae Fields, Laura Fritsch, Katelin Hickerson, Brandon Hines, Serena Hobbs, Cassidy Kennedy, Wesley Kephart, Nicole Lemon, Donald Lynch, Eric Martino, Samantha McMillan, Stephanie Moor, Ebonie Simpson, Sarah Telaneus, Melanie Welch and Wiliam Workman.

According to the College Board, AP Scholar Awards are academic distinctions that students may cite among their credentials on applications and resumes. Students do not receive any monetary award from the College Board.

## **Student artwork featured at TASB exhibit**

Artwork from six Denton Independent School District students was recently showcased by the Texas Art Education Association at the Texas Association of School Boards exhibit in Dallas.

The exhibit showcased kindergarten through 12th-grade art from across Texas.

The following students' artwork was featured at the exhibit: **Arunkumar Anjana**, former Newton Rayzor Elementary student; **Joshua Eckel**, Ryan Elementary fifth-grader; **Jacob Longmead**, Guyer High senior; **Joseph Martin Rocabado**, Nelson Elementary second-grader; **Dakota Pickelsimer**, Ginnings Elementary fifth-grader, and **Shubhra Rajpurohit**, Calhoun Middle sixth-grader.